

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /106 W

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R 090645Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7447

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARS TAKE UP CUDGELS AGAINST SOLZHENITSYN

REF: STATE 1748

1. SOME CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE BROKEN SILENCE OVER
LATEST SOLZHENITSYN BOOK, FIRST BY REPRINTING IN "OTECHESTVEN
FRONT" NOVOSTI ATTACK WITH JANUARY 5 MOSCOW DATELINE,
THEN WITH ARTICLE BY PARIS CORRESPONDENT OF RABOTNICHESKO
DELO FOLLOWING DAY.

2. RABOTNICHESKO DELO COMMENTARY IS NOT NEARLY SO BRUTAL
AS NOVOSTI PIECE OF "BORIS KAROLEV", AND INTERESTINGLY
ENOUGH IS LESS AN ATTACK ON SOLZHENITSYN THAN ON FRENCH
MEDIA WHICH HAS SEIZED UPON "GULAG ARCHIPELAGO" AS EXCUSE
TO LAUNCH "NEW WAVES OF ANTI-SOVIET SLANDERS." ACCORDING
TO RF MOTIVES BEHIND NEW CAMPAIGN ARE TWOFOLD: TO MAKE
FRENCH WORKER FORGET "ACUTE INTERNAL PROBLEMS" AND TO
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INTERFERE WITH RECENT TRENDS OF INTERNATIONAL "UNDER-

STANDING AND COOPERATION."

3. AFTER STATING THAT SUCH TACTICS WILL FAIL, AUTHOR THEN GOES ON WITH CURIOUS ARGUMENT THAT "THE NEW SLANDEROUS BOOK OF SOLZHENITSYN HAS NOTHING NEW IN PRINCIPLE FROM THAT WHICH HAS BEEN POINTED OUT BY HIM AND OTHERS IN THE PAST," INCLUDING THE TWENTIETH PARTY CONGRESS OF CPSU. AUTHOR SAYS THAT FRENCH MEDIA IGNORES FACT THAT IT WAS CPSU ITSELF THAT "CONDEMNED BEFORE ENTIRE WORLD THE OFFENSES WHICH, AT A CERTAIN CONCRETE TIME IN THE USSR, HAD FORCED SOCIALIST LEGALITY TO SUFFER."

4. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH ATTACK ON "FIGARO" FOR UNSCRUPULOUS ARTICLES ON USSR, INCLUDING "FALSE REPORT" BY ITS MILITARY CORRESPONDENT GENERAL BOFRE THAT USSR HAD EXTENDED ITS PERIOD OF MILITARY SERVICE BY ONE YEAR. "FIGARO" TREATMENT OF SOLZHENITSYN IS CAST IN SAME MOLD AND DESIGNED TO CREATE ANTI-SOVIET FEELINGS IN FRANCE.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHAT, IF ANY, DEFENSE THE BULGARS WILL MAKE AGAINST "GULAG ARCHIPELAGO", WE FIND THAT RD APPROACH THAT SOLZHENITSYN IS SIMPLY REPEATING OLD WELL-KNOWN HISTORY IS TOO SUBTLE FOR BULGAR PUBLIC AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS FOR BCP, SINCE IT CONFIRMS CHARGES OF SOVIET TERRORISM. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT ISSUE OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS IN GENERAL, AND SOLZHENITSYN SPECIFICALLY, IS NOT ONE WHICH IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE RUN-OF-MILL CITIZEN OR PARTY MEMBER, AND EXTENSIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM IN PUBLIC MEDIA WILL ONLY WHET CURIOSITY OF THOSE WHO WONDER WHAT FUSS IS ALL ABOUT. ON THE OTHER HAND, INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES ARE AWARE OF HIS WRITINGS WHICH CIRCULATE ILLEGALLY IN COUNTRY AND SOME MEASURES WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN TO PREVENT IT FROM GETTING OUT OF HAND. EFFORTS TO PUBLICLY CONDEMN SOLZHENITSYN HAVE FAILED IN PAST (AT WRITERS' UNION IN 1971 AND AGAIN, ACCORDING TO RUMORS, IN 1973). BCP MAY HAVE LEARNED A LESSON FROM THIS EXPERIENCE AND CONFINE ITS ATTACKS TO LOW-KEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEDIA PIECES UNLESS SOVIETS ORDER BULGARS TO LAUNCH ALL-OUT CAMPAIGN FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES.

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Remarks:
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